

this man did. Every American soldier owes a debt to this great man.”●

TRIBUTE TO BERNARD “C.B.” KIMMONS

● Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I honor Bernard “C.B.” Kimmons for his life of service and courageous commitment to preventing gang and drug violence at all costs.

C.B. was born in Atlantic City, NJ, on February 13, 1944. Though he originally hails from the Garden State, he came to spend much of his life within the city of Philadelphia, graduating from three Philadelphia area schools: Cardinal Dougherty High School, Saint Joseph’s University, and Temple University Graduate School.

After earning his teaching degree, he further solidified his commitment to Philadelphia by spending 16 years teaching in Ogontz, at General Louis Wagner Junior High. During his tenure at Wagner, he was disheartened to see that many of his students fell victim to social pressures that led to them join gangs. C.B. quickly became an eyewitness to gang-related violence. He knew that his students needed guidance before they became lost within the harsh realities of gang life. As a leader and a role model within the community, he took it upon himself to fulfill this need. He began to educate his students about the dangers of joining gangs with a simple message of respecting law enforcement, parents, clergy, teachers, adults, and fellow young people. His message quickly caught on, and many of his students still remember his influential teaching style.

It was this innovative approach that caught the attention of the Philadelphia school district, under Superintendent Dr. Constance Clayton. C.B. eventually began teaching in different schools across the district under a special antidrug, antiviolenence curriculum, many times teaching in up to 15 different schools a week. His message against bullying, guns, drugs, and violence spread across the city and continues to affect countless lives today.

It was during this time that Bernard was given the nickname of “Cool Bernie” or C.B. within some of the rougher neighborhoods he worked. This nickname has grown to illustrate the close nature of his relationships with his students as well as his acceptance as a role model and community figurehead. He goes by that name to this day.

In addition to his work in the public schools, C.B. was also an active volunteer through numerous activities within Philadelphia. In 1967, he served as a citywide gang control worker under the guidance of Zachary Clayton. He then met Dr. Herman Wrice who became his mentor when he joined Mantua Against Drugs. C.B. and Dr. Wrice traveled around Philadelphia trying to clear the streets of gangs and drug dealers to ensure that young adults had a safe haven from violence and

drugs in troubled neighborhoods. C.B.’s commitment to Mantua Against Drugs continues today; he currently serves as the organization’s executive director. From his first taste of volunteerism, C.B. knew he found his passion. He wanted to change the world.

In addition to these efforts, C.B. has personally made himself available to children within the city of Philadelphia through numerous activities. He provides free drug counseling and recently started a multitiered program offering computer skills, document framing, photo-journalism, entrepreneur training, and newsletter creation as an alternative to violent gang behavior. He also leads vigils for young adults who were killed as a direct result of gang related violence.

While C.B.’s efforts to lessen the impact of drug dealers have received considerable praise, they have also attracted the attention of those that would prefer the status quo remain unchanged. On more than one occasion C.B. has had threats against his own life and has been forced to seek police protection. Despite these efforts to undermine his work, C.B. persevered and still today continues to aggressively pursue change within our community.

C.B. has been honored for his work by countless organizations and agencies across the city of Philadelphia and the country. These honors include Time Magazine Local Philadelphia Hero; recognition by the Martin Luther King Center in Atlanta, GA; a 2010 Drum Major Award for Peace given by the Council of Black Clergy of Philadelphia; University of Pennsylvania’s Martin Luther King Award for Community Service and Outreach; winner of University of Pennsylvania’s Crystal Stair Award; the Hero of Peace Award given by Veterans Against Drugs; and the Humanitarian Award given by the Four Chaplains at the U.S. Naval Base. He has also been featured on CNN for his school-based role model program.

Throughout all of his work, C.B.’s efforts have focused on ensuring that children have a chance to succeed despite the challenges and obstacles they face on a daily basis. C.B. has saved numerous lives and continues to protect children of all ages from the ravages he first saw in his early teaching days. As a result of C.B. Kimmons’ hard work, children across Philadelphia are given a chance to succeed and reach their potential.

It is my pleasure to stand today before my colleagues to recognize Bernard “C.B.” Kimmons’ sacrifices, achievements, and ongoing commitment toward bettering the lives of our youth.●

TRIBUTE TO TINE VALENCIC

● Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, today I wish recognize the achievements of Tine Valencic, a 13-year-old seventh grade student at Colleyville Middle School in Colleyville, TX. Tine recently competed in and won the 2011

National Geographic Bee, held here in Washington, DC. Each year thousands of schools and millions of students in the United States participate in the National Geographic Bee using materials prepared by the National Geographic Society. The contest is designed to encourage teachers to include geography in their classrooms, spark student interest in the subject, and increase public awareness about geography. Schools with students in grades four through eight are eligible for this entertaining and challenging test of geographic knowledge.

Out of a field of 54 contestants, one from each of the 50 States and Territories, Tine won the competition and was the only contestant to correctly answer every question in the final round. In recognition of his success, National Geographic will award Tine a college scholarship worth \$25,000, a lifetime membership in the National Geographic Society, and a trip to the Galápagos Islands with his parents.

The winning question was: “Which South American country is home to the volcano, Tungurahua?” The answer, “Ecuador,” was given correctly by Tine after the runner-up contestant failed to match Tine for a fourth question in a row. Tine is the second Texan to be named national champion in the competition’s 23-year history.

Young Texans, like Tine Valencic, prove that persistence and a thirst for knowledge are the keys to unlocking opportunities for success. I congratulate Tine on this important accomplishment and look forward to seeing his continued achievements.●

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL J. FITZMAURICE

● Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today, with great pride, I pay tribute to Michael J. Fitzmaurice who will be retiring at the end of the month after 24 years of service at the Sioux Falls, SD, VA Medical Center.

Michael entered into service with the U.S. Army in October 1969. After completing his basic training at Fort Lewis, WA, and advanced individual training at Fort Knox, KY, he was deployed to Vietnam with the D-Troop 17th Cavalry, 101st Airborne Division. Michael served with great distinction in Vietnam eventually earning our nation’s highest award for valor, the Congressional Medal of Honor, for his heroic actions at Khe Sanh, Vietnam.

Michael received an honorable discharge from the Army on April 7, 1972. In addition to the Medal of Honor, which he was awarded by President Nixon in November 1973, Michael received several other decorations for his uncommonly brave service to our Nation; including the Vietnam Service Medal with Bronze Star, Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Purple Heart, among others. In recognition of his service, the South Dakota State Veterans Home in Hot Springs was renamed the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home in October 1998.